<u>WHAT IS CLAIMED IS</u>:

1. A method of passing N-bit word data over an M-bit channel, M being less than N, each N-bit word having a first portion and a second portion, the method comprising:

   transferring the first portion of each of X words in M-bit groups, X being at least two; and

   transferring at least one other bit group, the at least one other bit group including bits from the second portions of at least two of the X words.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

   joining, for each of the X words, the second portion to the corresponding transferred first portion, the second portion being extracted from the transferred at least one other bit group.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the first portion includes M bits of encoded information, and the second portion includes encoding information.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the second portion further includes DC content balancing information.

5. The method of claim 3, wherein N is 10, M is 8.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the M-bit channel includes a Digital Visual Interface (DVI) portion.

7. The method of claim 5, wherein the first portion is a most-significant bits portion, and the second portion is a least-significant bits portion.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the first portion is a most-significant bits portion, and the second portion is a least-significant bits portion.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the first portion is a least-significant bits portion, and the second portion is a most-significant bits portion.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein X is an integer and multiple of M/(N-M).

11. The method of claim 10, wherein X is 4.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein the bit-length of the first portion is an integer multiple of M.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein the bit-length of the second portion is less than M.

14. The method of claim 1, further comprising storing the N-bit word data in X locations at a first rate, each location being N-bits wide, wherein each N-bit word is stored in one of the X locations, and transferring includes reading from the X locations at a second rate, the second rate being faster than the second rate.

15. The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one other bit group includes M bits.

16. The method of claim 1, further comprising arranging for transfer the N-bit word data at a first rate, wherein transferring is at a second rate, the second rate being at least as fast as the first rate.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the second rate is faster than the first rate.

18. The method of claim 16, wherein the second rate is N/M times faster than the first rate.

19. The method of claim 16, wherein the first portion of each of X words are transferred in a sequence corresponding to an order by which each of X words was provided.

20. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

arranging for transfer X N-bit words in a first storage element; and

arranging for transfer, while transferring the first portion of each of X words and at least one other bit group, another X N-bit words in another storage element.

21. The method of claim 20, further comprising:

for each of the X words, joining the second portion to the corresponding transferred first portion, the second portion being extracted from the transferred at least one other bit group.

22. An apparatus for passing N-bit word data over an M-bit channel, M being less than N, each N-bit word having a first portion and a second portion, comprising:

means for transferring the first portion of each of X words in M-bit groups; and

means for transferring at least one other bit group, the at least one other bit group including bits from the second portions of at least two of the X words.

23. The apparatus of claim 22, further comprising:

means for joining, for each of the X words, the second portion to the corresponding transferred first portion, the second portion being extracted from the transferred at least one other bit group.

24. The apparatus of claim 22, further comprising means for storing the N-bit word data in ,X locations at a first rate, each location being N-bits wide, wherein each N-bit word is stored in one of the X locations, and transferring includes reading from the X locations at a second rate, the second rate being faster than the second rate.

25. The apparatus of claim 22, further comprising means for arranging for transfer the N-bit word data at a first rate, wherein transferring is at a second rate, the second rate being at least as fast as the first rate.

26. The apparatus of claim 22, further comprising:

means for arranging for transfer X N-bit words in a first storage element; and

means for arranging for transfer, while transferring the first portion of each of X words and at least one other bit group, another X N-bit words in another storage element.

27. A apparatus for passing N-bit word data over an M-bit channel, M being less than N, each N-bit word having a first portion and a second portion, comprising:

a first circuit arrangement adapted to transfer the first portion of each of X words in M-bit groups; and

a second circuit arrangement adapted to transfer at least one other bit group, the at least one other bit group including bits from the second portions of at least two of the X words.

28. The apparatus of claim 27, further comprising:

a receive circuit arrangement adapted to join, for each of the X words, the second portion bits to the corresponding transferred first portion, the second portion bits being extracted from the transferred at least one other bit group.

29. The apparatus of claim 27, further comprising a storage element adapted to store the N-bit word data in X locations at a first rate, each location being N-bits wide, wherein each N-bit word is stored in one of the X locations, and transfer includes reading from the X locations at a second rate, the second rate being faster than the second rate.

30. The apparatus of claim 27, further comprising another circuit arrangement adapted to arrange for transfer the N-bit word data at a first rate, wherein transferring is at a second rate, the second rate being at least as fast as the first rate.

31. The apparatus of claim 27, further comprising:

a circuit arrangement adapted to arrange for transfer X N-bit words in a first storage element; and

a circuit arrangement adapted to arrange for transfer, while transferring the first portion of each of X words and at least one other bit group, another X N-bit words in another storage element.